

**In the Claims:**

In claim 28, kindly add "25" after the word "claim"; and  
in claim 69, kindly add "claim 53, wherein" after the words "according to".

**Claims:****What is claimed is:**

1. (Previously Presented) A container with a container body or lower element and with a closure, characterized in that the lower container element and/or the closure is elastically deformable in at least one partial section with a high restoring force for creating a vacuum in the closed container.
2. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the lower container element and/or the closure are formed at least in one partial section by a wall section made of an elastic material with a high restoring force.
3. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the lower container element and/or the closure outside of the at least one elastically deformable wall section is made of a hard material.
4. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 3, wherein the at least one elastically deformable wall section is formed by a membrane-like wall section of the closure.
5. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the at least one elastically deformable partial section is formed by an accordion-like wall section of the closure and/or of the lower container element.
6. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the at least one elastically deformable partial section is formed by a convex wall section forming a bulge or a reduction.
7. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, further comprising means on the at least one elastically deformable section for increasing the restoring force.
8. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein at least one ventilation opening that can be closed by a sealing element is provided on the closure and/or on the lower container element.

9. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 8, wherein the ventilation opening is provided in the container closure or lid.
10. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 8, wherein the ventilation opening is provided in the container body or in the lower container element.
11. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 8, wherein the sealing element of the at least one ventilation opening is a manually controllable valve.
12. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 8, wherein the sealing element on the ventilation opening is an automatic valve.
13. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 12, wherein the valve comprises a valve body, which comprises an elastic or spring-action section that works together with a valve seat on the ventilation opening.
14. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 13, wherein the valve body consists of a first section made of a hard material for fastening the valve body and of an elastically deformable section provided on the first section that works together with the valve.
15. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 14, wherein the valve body is made of plastic, using the two-component injection molding process.
16. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the elastically deformable wall section is manufactured as one piece with the container closure and/or the container body or lower element, made of plastic using the two-component injection molding process.
17. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the at least one deformable section is formed by an element that is connected with the container closure and/or the container body or lower element, by gluing, welding or joining.
18. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container closure is fastened on the container body or lower element in an airtight and/or gastight manner.

19. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the closure comprises an edge forming a circular groove and that when the container is closed one edge of the lower container element is held by a groove.
20. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, wherein the groove and the edge of the container body or lower container element comprise a self-sealing, wedge-shaped or approximately wedge-shaped cross section.
21. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, wherein a circular seal is provided in the groove and/or a circular seal made of a soft elastic material is provided on the edge of the lower container element or container body.
22. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 21, wherein the seal is fastened to the closure and/or on the container body or lower element, for example by being molded on, using a two-component injection molding process.
23. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, wherein the groove holding the edge of the container body or lower element is formed by a groove of a circular seal.
24. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the at least one elastically deformable section is formed by a seal between the closure and the container body or lower element.
25. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, comprising a container for keeping food fresh with a lower container element and a container lid.
26. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 25, wherein the elastically deformable section is a section of the container lid.
27. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 25, wherein the elastic deformable section is formed by an elastically deformable wall section.

28. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 25, wherein the elastically deformable section is formed by an accordion-like section of the walls of the container body .
29. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim, wherein the elastically deformable section is formed by a convex section with reinforcing elements.
30. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container body is designed as a can.
31. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container closure is linked to the container body and/or can be locked on the container body by means of a bent-lever closure.
32. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container is a butter dish with a dome-shaped container lid and an essentially bottle-shaped lower container element.
33. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 32, wherein the deformable section on the container lid is designed for example in the form of an accordion-like section.
34. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 32, wherein the deformable section is formed by a seal between the container lid and the lower container element.
35. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container in a closed condition is deformed by the at least one elastic section in the direction of the container axis and/or radially to the container axis.
36. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container closure can be screwed onto the container body or the lower container element.
37. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the closure can be pressed onto the container body or the lower container element.

38. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container body and/or the closure or the container lid are designed so that the containers can be stacked.

39. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container body or the lower container element has a round, oval or square cross section.

40. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the container body or the lower container element is a bottle.

41. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the closure is formed by a cap with an inner seal that can be placed on the mouth of the bottle, wherein the cap is made of the permanently elastic material in at least one partial section of its bottom.

42. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the closure forms an outwardly closed hollow body, which when the closure is placed on the container is connected with the interior of the container, and that the hollow body is made of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force at least in one partial section of its peripheral wall.

43. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 42, wherein the elastic material with a high restoring force is an elastomer.

44. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, comprising means for increasing the restoring force of material sections made of a permanently elastic material, preferably material sections provided in grooves in the accordion-like wall section, ring-shaped material sections enclosing the container on its periphery.

45. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, comprising a sealing element forming the elastically deformable section has a cross section with a larger cross section side in the axis direction parallel to the container axis than in an axis direction extending perpendicular to the same.

46. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, comprising means for limiting the movement stroke of the at least one elastic section, by belts or stops bridging the at least one elastically deformable section.

47. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the at least one elastically deformable section is formed by a reduction or bulge enclosing the container axis in a ring-shaped manner.

48. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the closure consists of a ring-shaped closure body with a seal that can be placed on the respective container and of a membrane closing the opening of the ring-shaped closure body, said membrane being made of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force.

49. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 48, wherein the closure body forms a protruding edge on one side opposing the seal.

50. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 48, wherein the closure comprises a closure body designed as a hollow body with an opening enclosed by a ring seal and that the hollow body is made in at least one partial section of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force.

51. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the closure is a re-closable closure for closing a container until the contents of the container are ultimately consumed.

52. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 1, wherein the closure and/or the container body outside of the elastically deformable section are made of a material other than plastic, such as glass or metal.

53. (Previously Presented) A closure for a container, wherein the closure is elastically deformable in at least one partial section with a high restoring force for creating a vacuum in the closed container.

54. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure at least in one partial section of one wall section is formed from an elastic material with a high restoring force.

55. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure outside of the at least one elastically deformable wall section is made of a hard material.

56. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the at least one elastically deformable wall section is formed from a membrane-like wall section of the closure.

57. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the at least one elastically deformable partial section is formed from an accordion-like wall section of the closure.

58. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the at least one elastically deformable partial section is formed by a convex wall section forming a bulge or a reduction.

59. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, further comprising means on the at least one elastically deformable section for increasing the restoring force.

60. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, further comprising at least one ventilation opening that can be closed by a sealing element is provided on the closure.

61. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 60, wherein the sealing element of the at least one ventilation opening is a manually controllable valve.

62. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 60, wherein the sealing element on the ventilation opening is an automatic valve.

63. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 62, wherein the valve comprises a valve body, which comprises an elastic or spring-action section that works together with a valve seat on the ventilation opening.

64. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 63, wherein the valve body consists of a first section made of a hard material for fastening the valve body and of an elastically deformable section provided on the first section that works together with the valve.

65. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 64, wherein the valve body is made of plastic, using the two-component injection molding process.

66. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the elastically deformable wall section is manufactured as one piece with the closure, of plastic using the two-component injection molding process.

67. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the at least one deformable section is formed from an element that is connected with the container closure, by gluing, welding or joining.

68. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the container closure can be fastened on the container body or lower element (2 – 2u) in an airtight and/or gastight manner.

69. (Currently Amended) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure comprises an edge forming a circular groove and that when the container is closed, one edge of the lower container element is held by a groove.

70. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 69, wherein the groove and the edge of the container body or lower container element comprise a self-sealing, wedge-shaped or approximately wedge-shaped cross section.

71. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein a circular seal is provided in the groove and/or a circular seal made of a soft elastic material is provided on the edge of the lower container element or container body.

72. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 71, wherein the seal is fastened to the closure by being molded on, using a two-component injection molding process.

73. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 69, wherein the groove holding the edge of the container body or lower element is formed by a groove of a circular seal.

74. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the at least one elastically deformable section is formed by a seal (25) on the closure.

75. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure can be screwed onto the container body or the lower container element.

76. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure can be pressed onto the container body or the lower container element.

77. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure is formed by a cap with an inner seal that can be placed on the mouth of a bottle, wherein the cap is made of the permanently elastic material in at least one partial section of its bottom.

78. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure forms an outwardly closed hollow body, which when the closure is placed on the container is connected with the interior of the container, and that the hollow body is made of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force at least in one partial section of its peripheral wall.

79. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the elastic material with a high restoring force is an elastomer.

80. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, comprising a sealing element forming the elastically deformable section having a cross section with a larger cross section side in the axis direction parallel to the container axis than in an axis direction extending perpendicular to the same.

81. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, further comprising means for limiting the movement stroke of the at least one elastic section, by belts or stops bridging the at least one elastically deformable section.

82. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure consists of a ring-shaped closure body with a seal that can be placed on the respective container and of a membrane closing the opening of the ring-shaped closure body, said membrane being made of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force.

83. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 82, wherein the closure body forms a protruding edge on one side opposing the seal.

84. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure comprises a closure body designed as a hollow body with an opening enclosed by a ring seal and that the hollow body is made in at least one partial section of the elastically deformable material with a high restoring force.

85. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure is a re-closable closure for closing a container until the contents of the container are ultimately consumed.

86. (Previously Presented) A closure according to claim 53, wherein the closure outside of the elastically deformable section is made of a material other than plastic, such as glass or metal.

87. (Previously Presented) An automatic valve for closing an opening, with a valve seat enclosing the opening and with a valve body, which comprises one elastic or spring-action section working together with the opening, wherein the valve body consists of one first section made of a hard material for fastening the valve body and of one elastically deformable section provided on the first section that works together with the valve.

88. (Previously Presented) The valve according to claim 87, wherein the valve body is made of plastic, using the two-component injection molding process.